

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RONEILL:RGH:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 167377

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 6

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 6, 1976:

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A NUMBER OF THINGS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE ISRAELI COMMANDO RAID; NAMELY, HOW MANY AMERICAN
CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED?

A. THE FIGURE I HAVE IS THREE AMERICANS, ONE OF WHOM IS
MARRIED TO AN ISRAELI.

Q. DO YOU HAVE THEIR NAMES, PLEASE?

A. MR. AND MRS. GEORGE KARFUNKEL. I DO NOT HAVE AN AD-
DRESS ON THAT. MRS. JANET ALMOG. SHE IS MARRIED TO AN
ISRAELI.

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Q. ALL THREE ARE NOW IN JERUSALEM?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT MRS. ALMOG HAS RETURNED TO ISRAEL.
REGARDING THE KARFUNKELS, I AM NOT CERTAIN OF THEIR WHERE-
ABOUTS RIGHT AT THE MOMENT.

MR. BROWN: THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THE UNITED
STATES?

MR. TRATTNER: I THINK THEY WERE DUE TO RETURN TO NEW YORK
LAST NIGHT, AND I THINK NEW YORK IS THEIR HOME CITY.

Q. KARFUNKEL'S HOME IS NEW YORK?

MR. TRATTNER: I BELIEVE SO.

MR. BROWN: WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS ACCURATE BUT WILL CHECK FOR YOU, MURREY.

Q. DO YOU KNOW MRS. ALMOG'S HOME?

A. AS I SAY, SHE IS MARRIED TO AN ISRAELI AND IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING SHE LIVES IN ISRAEL.

Q. WERE THERE ANY AMERICANS AMONG THE HUNDRED AND THOSE WHO DIED IN UGANDA?

A. NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW.

Q. ONLY THREE AMERICANS?

A. YES. THE OTHER AMERICANS ON BOARD THE HIJACKED AIRCRAFT WERE RELEASED IN THE INITIAL GROUP AS YOU RECALL. AND I BELIEVE THE FINAL FIGURE WAS--I CANNOT GIVE YOU OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD THE FINAL FIGURE, BUT IT WAS AROUND FIFTEEN. AND I WILL GET YOU THE PRECISE NUMBER OF AMERICANS RELEASED IN THE FIRST GROUP, AND IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE FROM THIS FIGURE OF THREE WHICH I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU FOR THE RELEASE ON SATURDAY I WILL ADVISE YOU.

Q. COULD YOU GO THROUGH THE SEQUENCE OF WHAT INFORMATION UNCLASSIFIED

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YOU HAVE AVAILABLE AS TO WHAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOTIFIED ABOUT, WHEN IT WAS NOTIFIED, AND WHAT IT DID?

A. MURREY, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE SECRETARY WAS TOLD OF THE RAID AFTER IT HAD ALREADY STARTED. THAT WAS ABOUT 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY EVENING, AND THAT WAS OUR FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW AT WHAT POINT THE RAID WAS IN AT THAT TIME?

A. I DO NOT KNOW, MURREY.

Q. IT WAS ABOUT 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY EVENING?

A. YES.

Q. WASN'T THE RAID OVER AND THE FLIGHT BACK, AT THAT TIME?

A. IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE "THE RAID". PERHAPS THE FLIGHT WAS IN PROGRESS BACK, BUT I AM TOLD THE RAID WAS

NOT YET COMPLETED AT THAT POINT. BUT IT WAS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY, AT WHICH POINT THE SECRETARY WAS MADE AWARE OF IT.

Q. WE HAVE SOME DISCREPANCY HERE, WHICH IS WHY I AM ASKING ABOUT THE TIME FACTOR, BECAUSE I UNDERSTOOD THE ISRAELI EMBASSY TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY, THE UNITED STATES, WAS NOTIFIED AFTER THE PLANES TOOK OFF. AND THAT WOULD BE A MATTER OF A CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT TIME FACTOR UNLESS THERE IS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING HERE.

A. TOOK OFF FROM WHERE WOULD BE THE QUESTION.

Q. I THOUGHT THEY MEANT AFTER THEY TOOK OFF FROM ISRAELI TERRITORY.

A. NO, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IS ACCURATE. I CANNOT GIVE YOU A MORE PRECISE TIME, MURREY, THAN ROUGHLY 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY EVENING, AND THAT THE RAID WAS ALREADY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PROGRESS.

Q. WHAT WAS THE FIRST INFORMATION THE UNITED STATES HAD ABOUT THE RAID?

A. I JUST SAID THAT IS OUR FIRST INFORMATION.

Q. ALL RIGHT. IS THE SITUATION THAT AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE RAID BEFORE THE ISRAELI EMBASSY NOTIFIED THE UNITED STATES?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE QUESTION OF INTELLIGENCE, MURREY, BUT WILL REAFFIRM THAT OUR FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF THE RAID BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS APPROXIMATELY 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY NIGHT.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT MY QUESTION. I WAS ASKING WHAT THE FIRST KNOWLEDGE WAS OF THE UNITED STATES.

A. I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID, MURREY. THAT IS OUR FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

Q. ALL RIGHT, YOU ARE SAYING THAT UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE HAD NO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE RAID?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT DID NOT.

Q. ALL RIGHT.

Q. FRED, DOES THE QUESTION ARISE AS TO THE USE OF US-

SUPPLIED AIRCRAFT IN THIS RAID INTO UGANDA? THOSE PLANES ARE PROVIDED, AS I UNDERSTAND OUR LEGISLATION, SOLELY FOR THE SELF-DEFENSE OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY.

A. I IMAGINE THAT WOULD BE A SUBJECTIVE DETERMINATION. I AM NOT INFORMED ON THAT, LARS.

Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT ALSO HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHETHER UGANDA CONNIVED IN THE KIDNAPING OF THE HOSTAGES? THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS AS TO WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED

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UGANDAN TROOPS ACTUALLY STOOD GUARD OVER THEM.

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY CLEAR INFORMATION ON THAT POINT, LARS.

Q. I WAS HOPING WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH A TIME SEQUENCE HERE IN ANSWER TO MY ORIGINAL QUESTION. THE UNITED STATES WAS NOTIFIED, YOU SAY, ABOUT 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY EVENING. WHAT DID THE UNITED STATES DO?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHAT WE DID. WE WERE PASSIVE IN THE ENTIRE AFFAIR, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO DO OTHER THAN TO RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION.

OF COURSE WE WERE INTERESTED IN IT; IT WAS AN EVENT OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND, AS SUCH, WE FOLLOWED IT ONCE WE WERE AWARE OF ITS TAKING PLACE.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE THIS, IF I MAY. DID THE UNITED STATES INTERCEDE WITH KENYA IN ANY WAY?

A. I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY INTERCESSION.

Q. COULD YOU INQUIRE, PLEASE?

A. WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION PRECISELY, MURREY?

Q. MY QUESTION IS, DID THE UNITED STATES INTERCEDE WITH KENYA IN ANY WAY TO FACILITATE THE EXIT OR THE REFUELING OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES CONCERNED WITH THE ESCAPE ROUTE OF THE ISRAELI COMMANDO PARTY?

A. I THINK I HAVE ALREADY SAID, MURREY, THAT WE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND NO ROLE WHATSOEVER IN THIS AFFAIR, AND, AS SUCH, I THINK IT FAIR TO SAY THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE INTERCEDED.

Q. ARE YOU DECLINING TO TAKE MY QUESTION?

A. NO, I AM NOT DECLINING TO TAKE YOUR QUESTION, BUT AS
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WE HAVE STATED OVER THE WEEKEND IN ANSWER TO SIMILAR
QUESTIONS, THE UNITED STATES PLAYED NO ROLE WHATSOEVER
IN THIS INCIDENT.

Q. WELL, WILL YOU TAKE THE QUESTION, PLEASE?

A. I AM ALREADY GIVING YOU AN ANSWER. I WILL BE
DELIGHTED TO TAKE THE QUESTION AS YOU POSED IT, BUT I AM
TRYING TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER WHICH I THINK IS RESPONSIVE.

Q. ALL RIGHT, LET ME PURSUE MY LINE OF QUESTIONING IF I
MAY. WHAT WAS THE FIRST ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED
STATES?

A. THE FIRST ACTION TAKEN WAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE
RECEIVING THE INFORMATION AROUND 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY
EVENING.

Q. WHAT DID HE DO?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WOULD YOU ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT, PLEASE?

A. HE LISTENED.

Q. WOULD YOU ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN
BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHEN HE RECEIVED NOTICE?

A. I WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT.

Q. WAS THIS NOTICE FROM THE ISRAELIS?

A. YES.

Q. AT WHAT TIME DID THE UNITED STATES ISSUE ITS
STATEMENT?

A. I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT SENT A LETTER TO MR. RABIN
ON JULY 4. I DO NOT HAVE THE PRECISE TIME. YOU MIGHT
ASK THE WHITE HOUSE. THAT IS THE FOLLOWING DAY, SUNDAY,
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JULY 4.

Q. THERE IS NO FURTHER ACTION THAT YOU KNOW OF THAT WAS
TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE? HE SIMPLY RECEIVED THE

INFORMATION, AND THAT IS THE EXTENT OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. A FOOTNOTE AT THIS POINT. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA OF HOW DETAILED A REPORT THE SECRETARY WAS GIVEN?

A. I DO NOW KNOW. I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q. DO YOU, FOR EXAMPLE, KNOW WHAT ROUTE THE ISRAELI PARTY TOOK --

A. I DO NOT .

Q. -- ON THE WAY IN.

A. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

Q. YOU CAN'T TELL US THAT?

A. NO.

Q. WHO TOLD HIM, AND WHERE WAS IT?

A. I UNDERSTAND THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CALLED THE SECRETARY.

Q. CALLED OR CALLED ON?

A. CALLED, TELEPHONED. THE SECRETARY WAS IN NEW YORK AT THE TIME.

Q. WAS THERE AN OP CENTER SET UP HERE IN THE COURSE OF THIS INCIDENT?

A. NO, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE WAS NO WORKING GROUP SET UNCLASSIFIED

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UP. I CAN CHECK ON THAT POINT FOR YOU, HOWEVER.

Q. NOW THAT THE OPERATION IS OVER, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT ACTIVITIES WERE ENGAGED IN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TERRORISM OFFICE?

A. YOU MEAN THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE AFFAIR OF THE HIJACKING OF THE AIR FRANCE AIRCRAFT WHICH BEGAN EARLIER IN THE WEEK?

Q. YES, PLEASE.

A. I CANNOT GIVE YOU A DETAILED RUNDOWN ON THAT, BUT I CAN CERTAINLY GET A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE OFFICE OF THE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR COMBATING TERRORISM DID DURING THE WEEK, IF YOU WOULD LIKE.

Q. YES, I WOULD APPRECIATE THAT.

A. THE UPDATES, THE INFORMATION THAT WE PROVIDED YOU DURING THE WEEK ON THIS MATTER WAS PROVIDED BY THAT OFFICE. I THINK SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY CALLED MR. FEAREY'S OFFICE DURING THE WEEK AND GOT WHAT INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE.

Q. I DIDN'T, BECAUSE, QUITE FRANKLY, MY RECOLLECTION WAS THAT MR. FUNSETH ASKED FORBEARANCE OF THE PRESS IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS DURING THAT PERIOD BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE OPERATION.

A. YES, THERE WAS A LIMIT TO WHAT COULD BE SAID DURING THAT VERY SENSITIVE PERIOD.

Q. FINE. NOW THAT THE OPERATION IS OVER, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXTENT OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE OFFICE OF TERRORISM.

A. I WILL BE GLAD TO ASK THAT OFFICE FOR A RECONSTRUCTION.

Q. PICKING UP MURREY'S POINT, WAS THERE ANY POINT WHERE THE US GOVERNMENT MADE AN APPROACH TO AMIN ASKING HIM TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF FREEING THE HOSTAGES? OR DID WE UNCLASSIFIED

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WATCH THIS AND DO NOTHING AND SAY NOTHING?

A. I THINK YOU ARE RAISING TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT ANY APPROACH WAS MADE BY THE US GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY TO AMIN. I WILL CHECK AND FIND OUT FOR YOU RIGHT AFTER LUNCH.

Q. WHAT ABOUT INDIRECTLY, FRED, THROUGH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT?

A. YES, THERE WERE INDIRECT APPROACHES MADE, AS YOU KNOW, BUT AS I TOOK BERNIE'S QUESTION, HE MEANT A DIRECT APPROACH. NOW, INDIRECTLY, AS WE SAID LAST WEEK, OUR POSITION WAS MADE KNOWN BY THE FRG GOVERNMENT IN UGANDA, WHICH REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS THERE. BUT I TOOK BERNIE'S QUESTION TO MEAN A DIRECT APPROACH, AND I WILL TRY TO FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT ANY WAS MADE.

Q. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES LEGALLY IN THIS MATTER? THE UNITED STATES DELIVERED A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO ISRAEL. COULD YOU AMPLIFY OUR JURIDICAL RATIONALIZATION?

A. I THINK THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT CONTAINED IN THE LETTER TO MR. RABIN SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. I WOULD ONLY ADD THAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AS A PHENOMENON, IS A SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE OF OUR MODERN AGE. AND I WOULD POINT OUT THAT FOR YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CALLING ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE SPECIAL MEASURES TO COMBAT IT. AND I WILL JUST REFER YOU TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID ON THE MATTER, EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION THAT THE PASSENGERS OF THE HIJACKED AIRCRAFT WERE SAVED.

Q. WHAT I AM ASKING IS SOMETHING THAT GOES BEYOND THAT. IT IS IN RELATION TO THE CHARGE MADE BY PRESIDENT AMIN THAT THIS WAS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION.

A. I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON THE MATTER, MURREY, EXCEPT TO REFER YOU TO THE ONE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE ALREADY.

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Q. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER AMPLIFICATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL OFFICE AS TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS?

A. I DO NOT.

Q. IN KEEPING WITH THE US POLICY OF NOT GIVING IN TO RANSOM DEMANDS, DID THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY COMMUNICATION WITH ISRAEL BEFOREHAND, URGING THEM NOT TO GIVE IN?

A. I AM NOT PRIVY TO WHETHER OR NOT SUCH COMMUNICATIONS WERE EXCHANGED WITH THE ISRAELIS, BUT I WOULD POINT OUT, AS WE HAVE SAID ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THAT WE DO NOT FORMALLY GO INTO THE CONTENTS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS.

IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, I AM NOT PRIVY TO THE EXISTENCE OF ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q. FRED, I THINK YOU ARE PROBABLY NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION, BUT IN VIEW OF THE SECRETARY'S REPEATED SPEECHES ABOUT THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, COULD YOU TAKE THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER UGANDAN TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY WAS VIOLATED IN THIS RAID, WHETHER SUCH A VIOLATION, IF IT OCCURRED, WAS JUSTIFIED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES, OR WHAT OUR VIEW IS AS

TO THE ACT COMMITTED BY THE ISRAELIS; WHETHER IT CONSTITUTED AN ACT OF AGGRESSION, VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY, JUSTIFIABLE OR NOT?

A. I CAN CERTAINLY TAKE THE QUESTION, BUT I MUST COME

BACK TO WHAT YOU HAVE JUST SAID, NAMELY, OUR OFT-STATED POSITION IS THAT, FOR YEARS, WE HAVE ARGUED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO COMBAT JUST THIS KIND OF THING. AND I WILL TRY TO GET YOU AN ANSWER TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION THAT YOU POSE.

Q. I DON'T WANT TO BE CANTANKEROUS ABOUT THIS POINT, BUT SIMPLY TO PURSUE THE SAME POINT THAT LARS MADE, THE LOGIC OF THE POSITION THAT YOU SET OUT WOULD RAISE THE IMPLICATIONS. UNCLASSIFIED

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TION THAT THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THIS KIND OF ACTION CAN BE REPEATED BY ANYONE ELSE, ANY OTHER COUNTRY, UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IS THAT THE UNITED STATES PREMISE?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO OFFER A JUDGMENT ON THAT. IT SEEMS TO ME YOU ARE THE ONE MAKING THE PREMISE, MURREY, AND I WOULD NOT WISH TO BE PUT IN A POSITION OF HAVING TO CHOOSE A YES OR NO ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q. IS THERE AN ASSESSMENT IN THIS BUILDING OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT COOPERATED WITH THE TERRORISTS IN THIS INCIDENT, AS HAS CLEARLY BEEN ALLEGED IN STATEMENTS FROM TEL AVIV?

A. I DO NOT KNOW IF THERE IS A DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT.

Q. IS THERE AN OPINION?

A. THERE ARE NO DOUBT OPINIONS AND SOME INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IT IS SOMEWHAT TOO EARLY TO COME TO ANY KIND OF DEFINITIVE CONCLUSION ON IT.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE THINKING IS?

A. I REALLY CANNOT.

Q. WAS ANY MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE SENT TO THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE DEATH OF SOME UGANDAN SOLDIERS IN THE INCIDENT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY MESSAGE.

Q. DO WE REGARD THOSE SOLDIERS WHO WERE KILLED AN INNOCENT BYSTANDERS CAUGHT IN A FIREFIGHT, OR AIDERS AND ABETTORS OF THE TERRORISTS, AND WHY HAVE WE NOT PUBLICIZED ANY MESSAGE REGRETTING THEIR DEATHS?

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A. WE REGRET THE DEATH OF ANY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS IN AN AFFAIR SUCH AS THIS. HOWEVER, I MUST COME BACK TO THE POINT THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT INVOLVED IN WHAT HAPPENED IN ENTEBBE. WE HAD INNOCENT AMERICAN CITIZENS ON BOARD AND WE OBVIOUSLY WERE VERY CONCERNED. IN TERMS OF EXPRESSING REGRET, WE HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATHS OF THOSE TWENTY UGANDAN SOLDIERS, REGRETTABLE AS THOSE DEATHS MAY BE. BUT WE HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS OCCURENCE.

Q. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BUT FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE THREE C-130'S, THIS RAID MIGHT NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE, AND THOSE PLANES WERE SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. SO I AM HAVING TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING HOW THE UNITED STATES PLAYED NO ROLE IN IT.

A. THE UNITED STATES SUPPLIES --

Q. I MEAN, HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATH OF THOSE UGANDANS.

A. THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT FLYING THOSE AIRPLANES. THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPLIED C-130 AIRCRAFT, OR SIMILAR AIRCRAFT, TO MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. I WILL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q. WHO, IN THE BUILDING, IS CHARGED WITH DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT ARMS SUPPLIED SOLELY FOR SELF-DEFENSE PURPOSES HAVE BEEN USED IN VIOLATION OF THE TERMS OF THOSE ARMS SUPPLIERS?

A. THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY IN THIS BUILDING IS THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Q. IS HE THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, OR DOES THE PRESIDENT MAKE THE FINAL DECISION?

A. I THINK IN SUCH A CASE IT MIGHT GO HIGHER THAN THE SECRETARY OF STATE. I AM NOT SUFFICIENTLY WELL INFORMED ON THE PROCEDURE ON THIS, HOWEVER, TO GIVE YOU A FULL REPLY.

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Q. WELL, AS A POINT OF CLARIFICATION, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE IS A RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF C-130'S, AND

IF IN FACT THAT RESTRICTION WOULD APPLY ALSO TO THE C-130'S RECENTLY SUPPLIED TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

A. AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING, THIS IS A COMPLICATED MATTER. THERE WOULD BE QUESTION ON JUDGMENT INVOLVED. AS I HAVE JUST SAID, THE ULTIMATE JUDGMENT IN THIS BUILDING WOULD BE THAT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Q. NO, I WAS ASKING A FACTUAL QUESTION; I WAS NOT ASKING A JUDGMENTAL QUESTION. THE FACTUAL QUESTION WAS: ARE THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS THAT WERE PLACED, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE RECENT SALE OF C-130'S TO EGYPT? ARE THERE REALLY-- I DON'T KNOW THE FACTS. THAT IS WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT.

A. I DO NOT KNOW. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE RECENT SALE OF C-130'S TO EGYPT?

Q. YES, I AM.

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, BUT I WILL FIND OUT FOR YOU.

Q. FRED, IS THE US GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ANY OF ITS AGENCIES, PICKING UP ANY INFORMATION OF THREATS BY THE PALESTINIANS BY WAY OF RETALIATION? IN OTHER WORDS, ARE YOU GETTING ANYTHING THROUGH FBIS OR INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, OR WHATEVER, THAT YOU HAVE PICKED UP,(A), AND (B), IF YOU HAVE, HAVE YOU RELAYED IT TO ISRAEL AND TO ANYONE ELSE?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY ON FBIS, BUT WE CAN CERTAINLY CHECK THE RECENT RECORDS. YOU SAY RETALIATION FOR THIS PARTICULAR--

Q. YES.

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY AT THIS TIME.

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Q. COULD YOU TAKE THAT ONE?

A. YES.

Q. EARLIER AT THIS BRIEFING, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THROUGH ITS SPOKESMAN, INDICATED THE UNITED STATES PLAYED NO ROLE IN THIS INCIDENT. DOES THAT INCLUDE THE PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF THE RAID?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON THE SECRETARY'S FOREIGN TRAVEL?

A. NOTHING BEYOND WHAT WE BRIEFED YOU ON LAST WEEK--
NAMELY, A POSSIBLE TRIP AROUND THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST--
BUT THAT IS STILL UP IN THE AIR. NO FIRM DATES YET SET.

Q. IS IT THE IRAN TRIP?

A. YES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN THE SPECULATIVE GAZETTEER?
WHAT ELSE IS ADDED?

A. THAT IS IT FOR THE MOMENT. ROBINSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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